

## ABSTRACT

A negative electrode material for non-aqueous electrolyte secondary batteries, comprises: a carbon material having a sphericity of at least 0.8, and exhibiting an average (002) interlayer spacing  $d_{002}$  of  
5 0.365 - 0.400 nm, a crystallite size in a c-axis direction  $L_{c(002)}$  of 1.0 - 3.0 nm, as measured by X-ray diffractometry, a hydrogen-to-carbon atomic ratio (H/C) of at most 0.1 as measured by elementary analysis, and an average particle size  $Dv_{50}$  of 1 - 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . The negative electrode material is spherical and exhibits excellent performances including high  
10 output performance and durability.